BABYLON 5
10
BASED ON THE GROUND-BREAKING WARNER BROS. TELEVISION SERIES
OBI
DEADLY REFUGE!
DIRECT SALES

# LASER-MIRROR-STARWEB

## PART 2: CODA FOR HUMAN AND NARN IN B FLAT

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BASED ON THE WARNER BROS
TELEVISION SERIES BABYLON 5
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WHAT BLESSINGS, CAPTAIN SHERIDAN! YOU SURVIVED THE EXPLOSION AND MADE IT BACK INSIDE OUR SHUTTLE!
NO THANKS TO YOU.
YOU TRIED TO SLAM THE HATCH IN MY FACE, GARROK!
G'KAR'S SHIP WAS BOOBY-TRAPPED AND ABOUT TO SELF-DESTRUCT! WE HAD TO GET OUT OF THERE!
YOU PANICKED! I HAD TO ACT!
YEAH, RIGHT!
YOU SHOULD BE FURIOUS! AMBASSADOR G'KAR WAS TRYING TO KILL YOU!
ARE YOU SURE I'M THE INTENDED TARGET—?
WHO ELSE?
IF ONLY THE EXPLOSION FROM G'KAR'S SHIP HADN'T SLAMMED US SO HARD. I'VE GOT TO STOP OUR ROTATION—
G'KAR FOOLED YOU, SHERIDAN. HE SENT HIS SHIP OUT UNMANNED. HE MUST BE HIDING ON BABYLON 5! WE MUST GO BACK!
GETTING BACK WILL BE THE SMALLEST PART OF OUR PROBLEM. WE'RE IN—

—DEEP SHIT!!!
IF YOU HADN'T INTERFERED GARIBALDI, THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN THE PERFECT HIDING PLACE!
THE AXIS TUBE OF BABYLON 5?!? O'MAR, YOU IDIOT! THAT'S AN H-100 CLEANING ROBOT CHASING US!
"NOW WE'VE GOT TO SWIM THE ENTIRE LENGTH OF THE STATION IN FREE FALL TO GET OUT THE OTHER END OF THE PIPE!"
WHAT IN THE HELL ARE YOU HIDING FROM, AMBASSADOR?
IT IS NO CONCERN OF YOURS—
IT IS EVERY CONCERN OF MINE. I'M THE STATION SECURITY CHIEF!
IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOUR SILLY STATION, GARIBALDI.
IT'S NOT YOUR BUSINESS!
YOU KIDNAPPED ME. THAT MAKES IT MY BUSINESS
IS NOT—
IS TOO—

HEY—!
IT'S GOT MY FOOT!
HURRY UP, GARIBALDI! GET INTO THE NEXT SECTION!
THIS BLASTED MACHINE IS PULLING MY CLOTHES OFF!
LOOK WHAT IT'S DOING! YOU OWE ME NEW BOOTS, BIKAR!
BUT IT'S SLOWING DOWN! GIVE IT MORE TO CHEW ON, MAYBE IT WILL STOP!
BUT THESE BOOTS HAVE GREAT SENTIMENTAL VALUE. THEY ARE MADE OF BRUOOKA—SORRY!
WHAT'S A BRUOOKA?
I THINK YOUR WORD IS LAWYER.
I VOLUNTEER YOUR BOOTS.

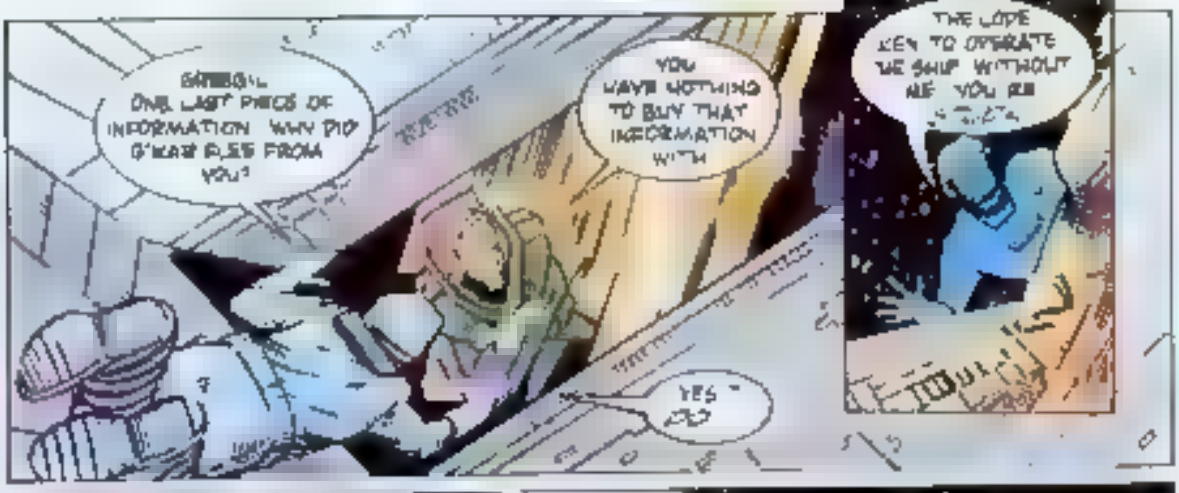
THAT THING WILL BE THROUGH THE HATCH ANY MINUTE!
IT'S YOUR IDEA. USE YOUR OWN BOOT.
YOU KIDNAPPED ME, G'KAR!
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS. WE'RE PLAYING A GAME?! NOW?!!
REMEMBER — LASER CUTS STARWEB STARWEB COVERS MIRROR MIRROR REFLECTS LASER
WE'LL PLAY LASER-MIRROR-STARWEB! LOSER TAKES OFF HIS BOOT.
ONE...
TWO...
THREE—
LASER! I WIN!
NO, SOLAR FLARE, I WIN!
HUH—?
A SOLAR FLARE DISRUPTS EVERYTHING. YOU LOSE YOUR BOOT!
YOU CHEATED, G'KAR! AGAIN!
I DID NOT CHEAT. I EXPANDED THE CONTEXT OF THE GAME

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH! NO MORE GAMES, AMBASSADOR!
TELL ME WHAT'S GOING ON OR I'LL EXPAND YOUR CONTEXT WITH THE BUSINESS END OF THAT BLASTER!
TELL ME!
I RECEIVED A MESSAGE—
"...TELLING ME AN ASSASSIN WAS COMING TO BABYLON 5!
"HIS NAME IS GARIBAL D'FARKAN!—
"—HE'S HERE TO KILL ME! AND HE'LL KILL ANYONE ELSE WHO GETS IN HIS WAY!
LOCKING BOLT 2
"HE'S TAKEN A SACRED OATH!"
WHOA! WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL US?
I'M NOT ALLOWED! IT'S A MATTER OF HONOR!
MARKS, WHAT A SPECIES! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!

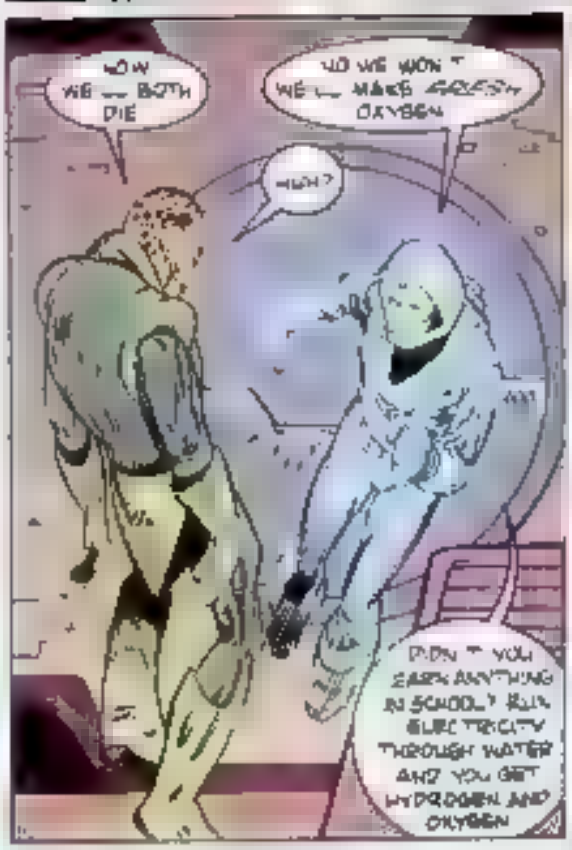
"THE SHIP IS STABILIZED—FINALLY."
"GOOD JOB, CAPTAIN SHERIDAN."
"BUT WE'VE TAKEN SOME SERIOUS DAMAGE, GREEGIL."
...INCLUDING MASSIVE RECALIBRATION IN THE EXTERNAL TRANSFIBULATOR PHASE CONTROLLERS...
WHA? WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
ADDITIONAL DAMAGE TO THE OXYGEN RECYCLERS—
WE'RE NOT GOING TO HAVE ENOUGH OXYGEN? WHAT'LL WE DO?
YOU'RE GOING TO SIT VERY STILL, GREEGIL. DON'T TOUCH ANYTHING.
I'M GOING OUTSIDE TO REPAIR THE TRANSFIBULATOR ANTENNAS.
BUT WHAT ABOUT OUR AIR?
DON'T WASTE IT TALKING.

ELSEWHERE
IF SOMEONE'S TRYING TO ASSASSINATE YOU, WE SHOULD TELL SHERIDAN!
NO, YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! I HAVE NO COMMUNICATOR.
BESIDES, I DIDN'T WANT TO BE TRACED.
WHY COULDN'T YOU LET THE ASSASSIN KILL YOU AND SAVE US ALL A LOT OF TROUBLE?
I PROMISED MY CLAN I WOULD DIE HONORABLY.
I INTEND TO DIE IN BED, ON MY 82ND BIRTHDAY, IN THE ARMS OF A BEAUTIFUL REDHEAD, SHOT BY A JEALOUS HUSBAND.
HMM. WOULD HER HUSBAND BE JEALOUS? YOU WOULD BE DOING HER A GREAT SERVICE.
LOOK! THAT THING IS COMING UP FAST! TIME TO DISCARD ANOTHER BOOT.
ONE...
...TWO...
...THREE...
ION STORM!
HAH! YOU LOSE!
AGAIN? WHAT DO YOU HAVE?
IT'S THE HAND OF GOD! IT HOLDS EVERYTHING! TAKE OFF YOUR BOOT, G'KAR!
YOU CHEATED!
I WON!
SAME THING!

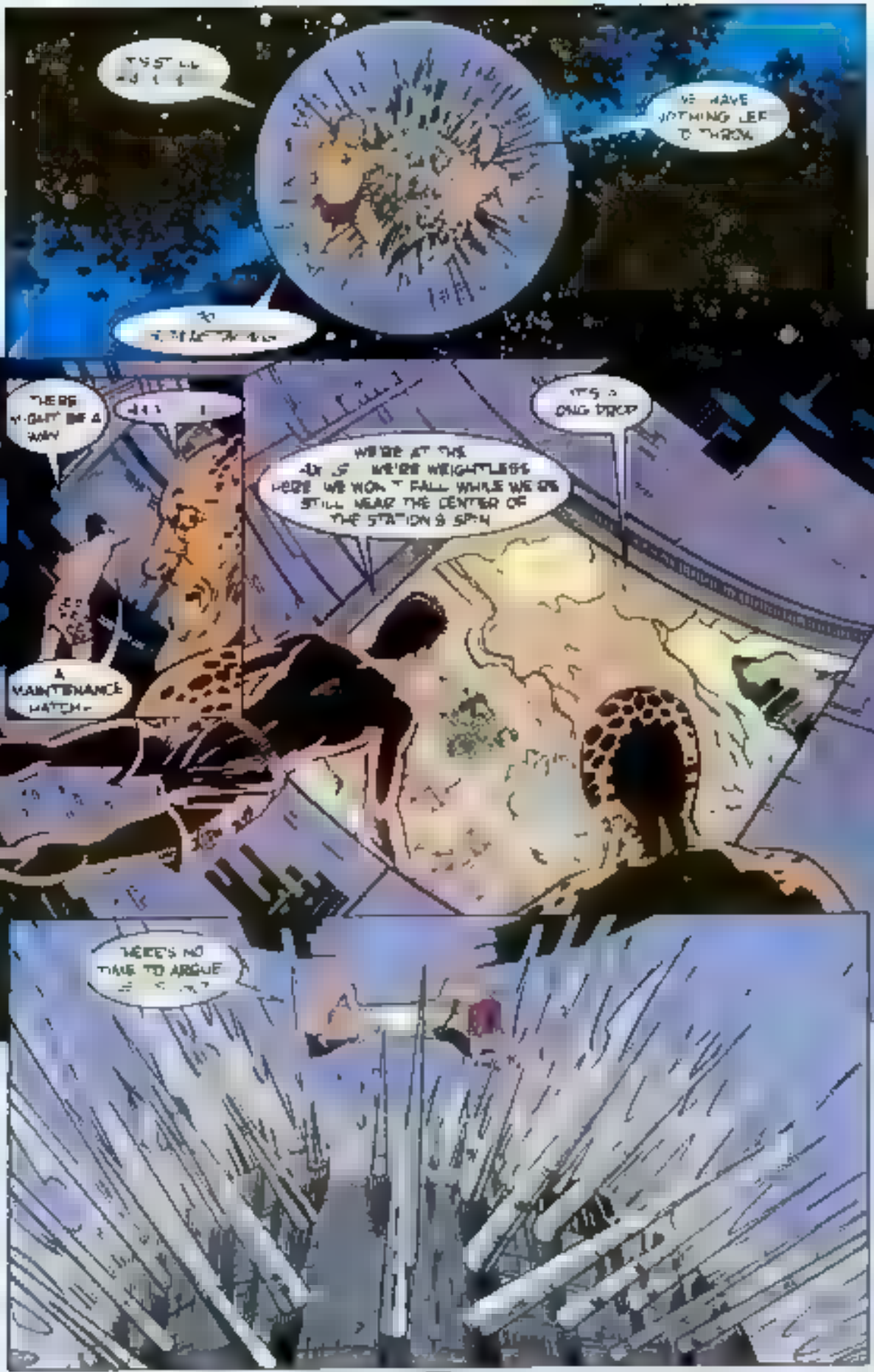
I REPLACED THE PART. TEST IT.
THE SYSTEM ANALYSIS SCREEN SAYS... "CONFIDENCE IS HIGH." WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
IT MEANS I'M DONE OUT HERE.
OKAY, CYCLE THE LOCK.
I'M SORRY, COMMANDER. I CAN'T DO THAT.
IS THERE A PROBLEM, GREEGIL?
NOT FOR ME.
YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT THE OXYGEN, AREN'T YOU?
THERE'S NOT ENOUGH FOR BOTH OF US.
YOU LOCKED THE MANUAL OVERRIDE!
I WAS BEING CAREFUL.
YOU CAN'T PILOT THE SHIP WITHOUT ME.
ONLY ONE OF US CAN GET BACK ALIVE. I'LL TELL THEM YOU DIED BRAVELY.
I DON'T SEE HOW IT WILL CHANGE ANYTHING.
CAN WE TALK ABOUT THIS?


SATTVA
ONE LAST PIECE OF INFORMATION WHY DID G'KAR FLEE FROM YOU?
YOU HAVE NOTHING TO BUY THAT INFORMATION WITH
THE LOPE KEN TO OPERATE THE SHIP WITHOUT ME YOU DIE
YES

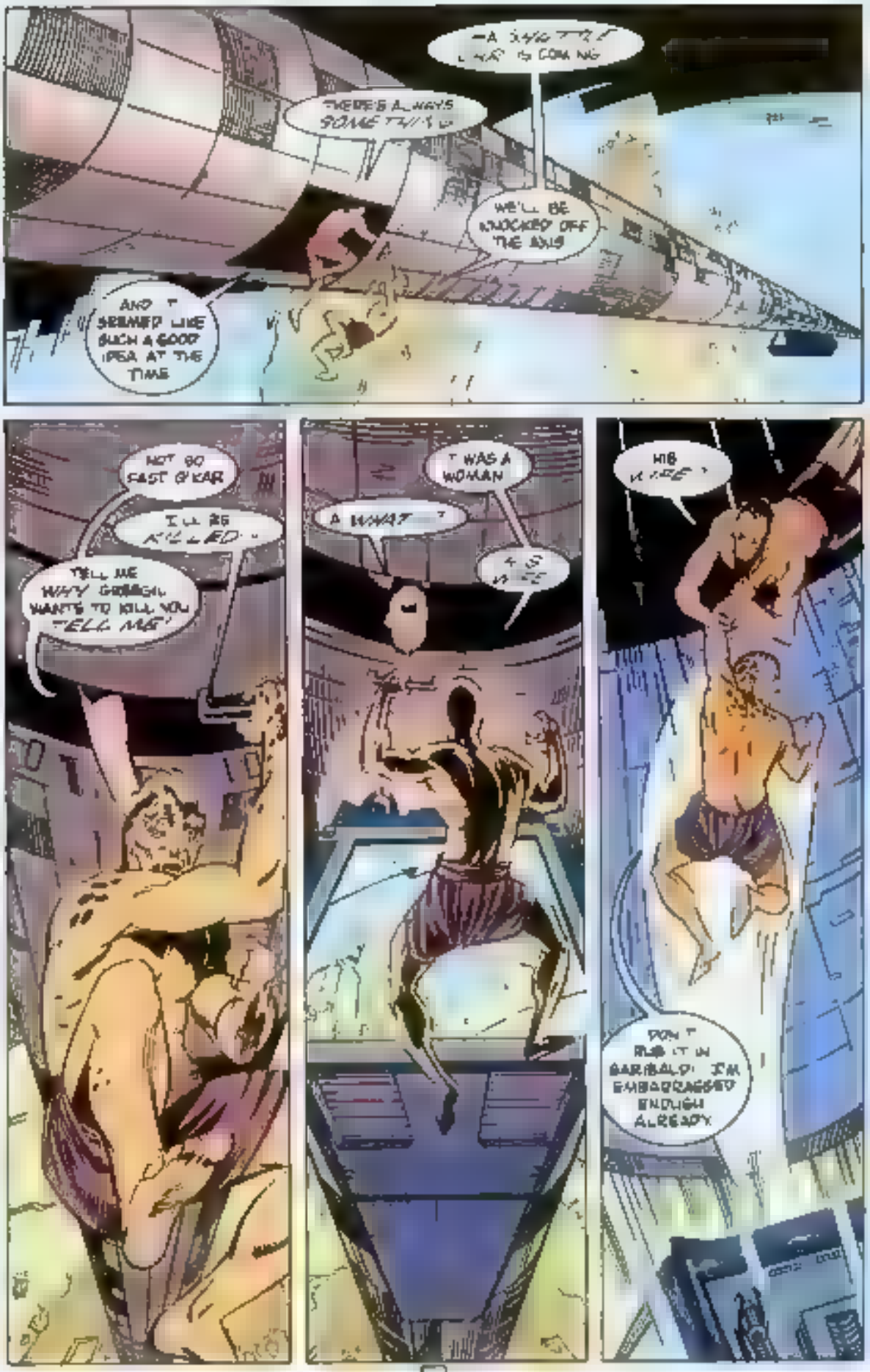
AN EXCELLENT NEGOTIATION CAPTAIN
THE ANSWER IS G'KAR WANTS TO SABOTAGE BABYLON 5, BUT HE NEEDED TO GET YOU AWAY FROM THE STATION FIRST
MY JOB IS TO STOP HIM ANY WAY I CAN


NOW WE — BOTH DIE
SO WE WON'T WE — MAKE [illegible] OXYGEN
HUH?
DON'T YOU LEARN ANYTHING IN SCHOOL? RUN ELECTRICITY THROUGH WATER AND YOU GET HYDROGEN AND OXYGEN

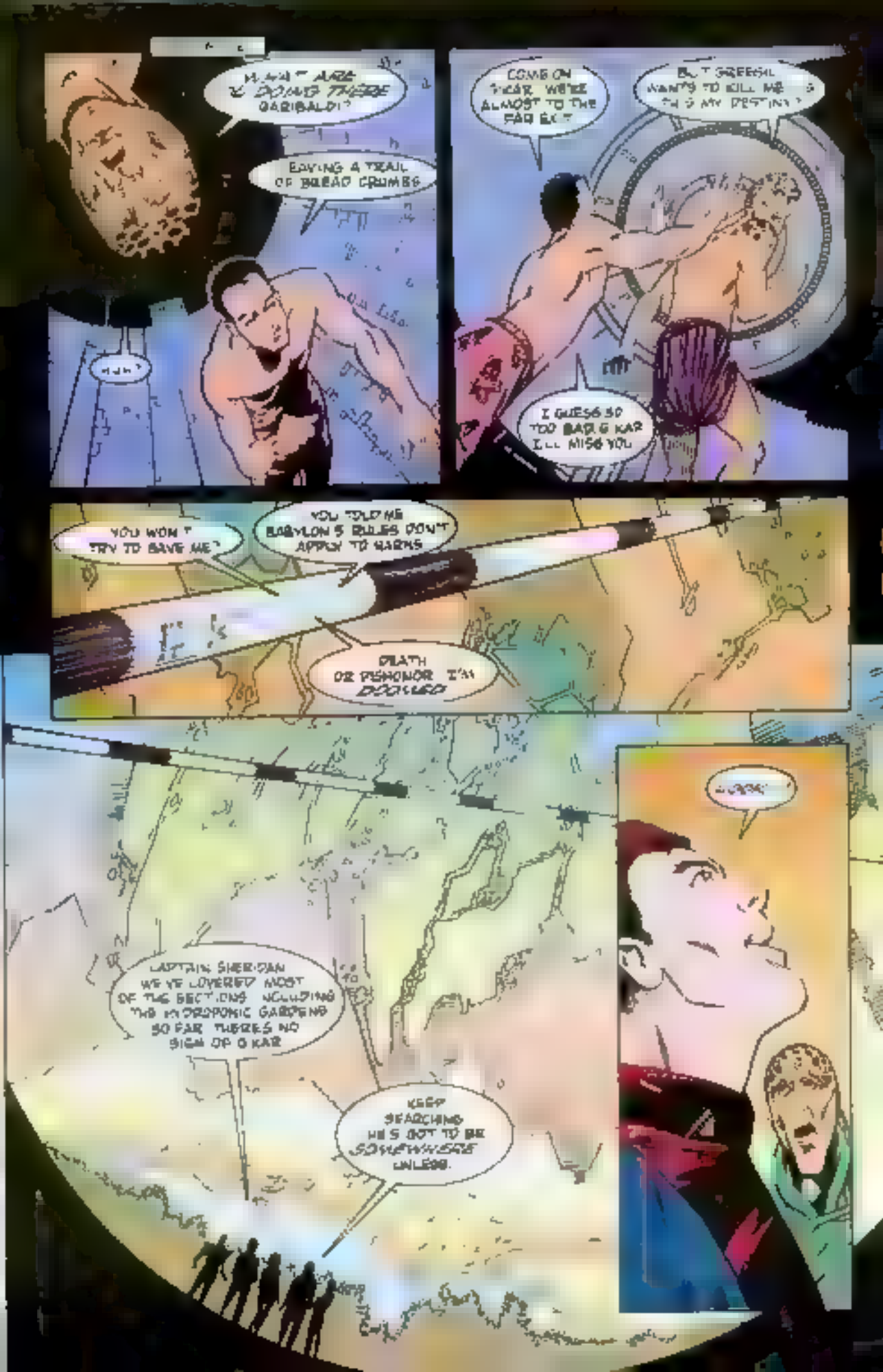
I AM AN ARISTOCRAT. ONLY SERVANTS GO TO SCHOOL
BUT THAT REALLY IS BRILLIANT CAPTAIN SHERIDAN YOU ARE MARVELOUS
I THINK SO
WE WON'T HAVE MUCH TO DRINK BUT WE — BREATHE


WE HAVE NOTHING LEFT TO THROW
THERE MIGHT BE A WAY
IT'S A LONG DROP
WE'RE AT THE AXIS SO WE'RE WEIGHTLESS HERE WE WON'T FALL WHILE WE'RE STILL NEAR THE CENTER OF THE STATION'S SPIN
A MAINTENANCE HATCH
THERE'S NO TIME TO ARGUE

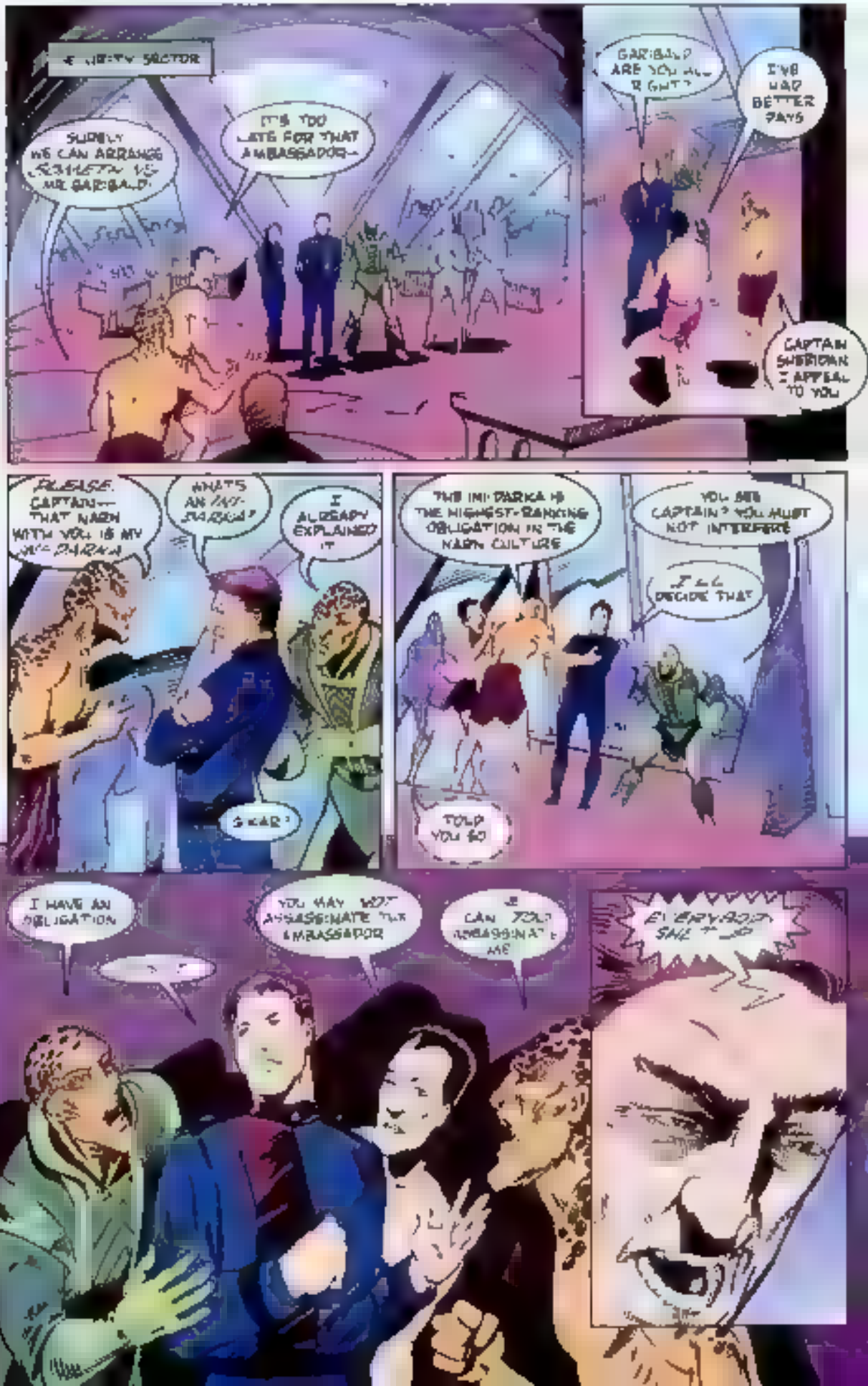
I'VE MADE IT
DON'T LET GO OR YOU'LL START TO SPIN AWAY — YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO GET BACK
AND DON'T LOOK DOWN—
AAAUUGGHH!!
I TOLD YOU THIS WASN'T A GOOD IDEA. NEXT TIME YOU'LL LISTEN!
NEXT TIME ?


THERE'S ALWAYS SOME TWIT
WE'LL BE KNOCKED OFF THE AXIS
AND I SEEMED LIKE SUCH A GOOD IDEA AT THE TIME
NOT SO FAST O'KAR
I'LL BE KILLED.
TELL ME WHY GORGON WANTS TO KILL YOU TELL ME!
I WAS A WOMAN
A WHAT?
WHO WERE
DON'T RUB IT IN BARBALO! I'M EMBARRASSED ENOUGH ALREADY

THIS IS CAPTAIN SHERIDAN I AM COMING BACK IN
WELCOME BACK CAPTAIN USE DOCKING BAY ONE
VESSEL IS NOW Ddocked
AIR SWEET PRECIOUS AIR
WE BARELY MADE IT—AND OH BY THE WAY
YOU'RE UNDER ARREST
AND GARIBALDI?
WE STILL HAVEN'T FOUND SINCLAIR CAPTAIN
WE HAVEN'T FOUND HIM EITHER
WE MUST BE WITH SINCLAIR SEARCH THE STATION AGAIN


WHAT ARE YOU DOING THERE GARIBALDI?
LEAVING A TRAIL OF BREAD CRUMBS
HUH?
COME ON YEAR WE'RE ALMOST TO THE FAR EAST
BUT SOMEONE WANTS TO KILL ME AND IT'S MY DESTINY
I GUESS SO TOO BAD G KAR I'LL MISS YOU
YOU WON'T TRY TO SAVE ME?
YOU TOLD ME BABYLON 5 RULES DON'T APPLY TO WARNS
DEATH OR DISHONOR I'M DOOMED
CAPTAIN SHERIDAN WE'VE COVERED MOST OF THE SECTIONS INCLUDING THE HYDROPONIC GARDENS SO FAR THERE'S NO SIGN OF G KAR
KEEP SEARCHING HE'S GOT TO BE SOMEWHERE UNLESS
HUH?

[illegible] HERE
[illegible] WHAT A RELIEF ALTHOUGH
NOW
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT CHIEF?
I'M HAVING A GOOD DAY THE AMBASSADOR
[illegible] AMBASSADOR [illegible] AND ASSISTANT AS THE CHIEF SECURITY OFFICER OF BABYLON 5
I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW DID THEY FIND US MY HIDING PLACE WAS
[illegible] PERFECT


SECURITY SECTOR
SURELY WE CAN ARRANGE SOMETHING VS MR GARIBALDI
IT'S TOO LATE FOR THAT AMBASSADOR--
GARIBALDI ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
I'VE HAD BETTER DAYS
CAPTAIN SHERIDAN I APPEAL TO YOU
PLEASE CAPTAIN-- THAT NAGH WITH YOU IS MY MR DARAK
WHAT'S AN MR DARAK?
I ALREADY EXPLAINED IT
GRR!
THE MR DARKA IS THE HIGHEST-RANKING OBLIGATION IN THE NAGH CULTURE
YOU SEE CAPTAIN? YOU MUST NOT INTERFERE
I'LL DECIDE THAT
TOLD YOU SO
I HAVE AN OBLIGATION
YOU MAY NOT ASSASSINATE THE AMBASSADOR
CAN YOU ASSASSINATE ME
EVERYBODY SHUT UP

# Narn Culture and Community (continued)

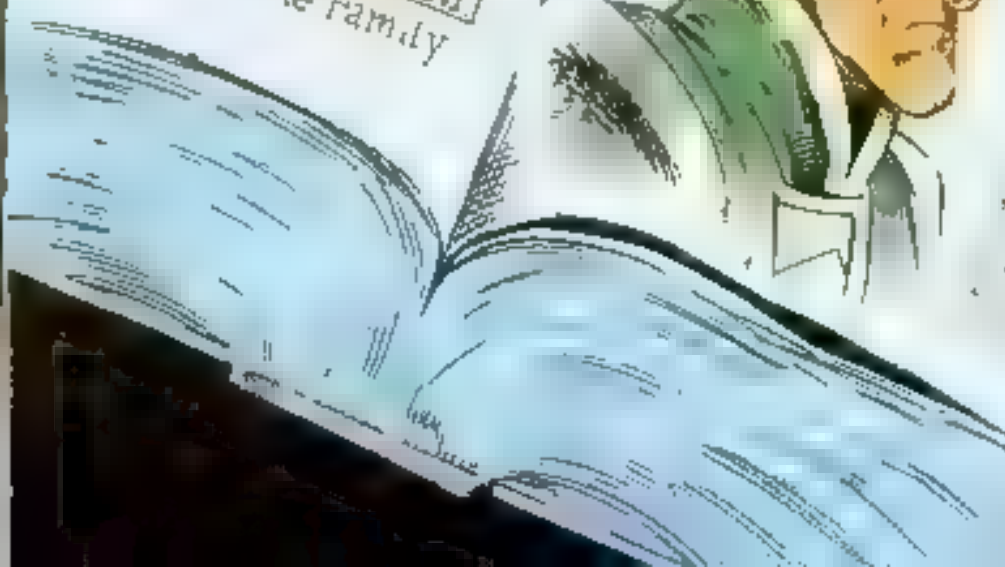
Narns rank obligation according to the food chain

THIS-KINI
The Carrion Eater

ON-KINI
The Lone Hunter

VAL-KINI
The Pack

JAE-KINI
The Family



BAS-KINI

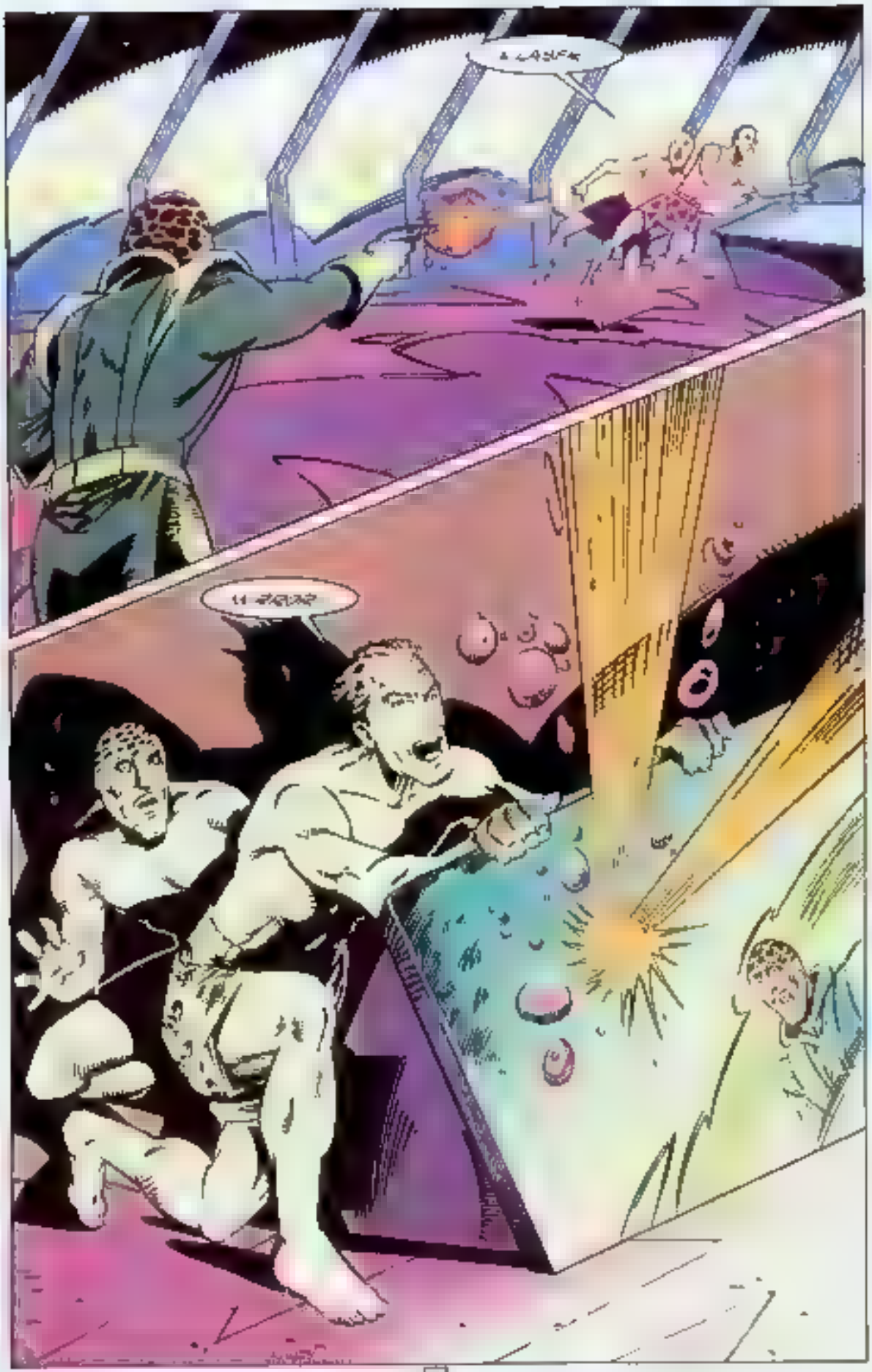
The Warr or

INI DARKA

The K ler
ivno l uti a
an abnigat on

OF COURSE THE LOWEST RANKING WOULD BE THE [illegible] THE MAD KILLER
THAT'S ENOUGH G'KAR
EVERYBODY STAND ASIDE
MAKE PEACE WITH THE ELDERS OF YOUR CLAN. G'KAR I AM YOUR [illegible]
I'M SORRY I CAN'T ALLOW THAT
DON'T WORRY IT'S PERFECTLY LEGAL
I HAVE A LICENSE SIGNED BY THE COUNCIL OF CLANS
GARIBALDI! WHAT ARE YOU DOING? WE'LL [illegible] YOU
NOW, PLEASE STEP ASIDE MR GARIBALDI

HMM YES VERY INTERESTING LICENSE
EVERYTHING APPEARS TO BE IN ORDER
LOOK MR GARIBALDI YOU SEE THIS IS MAIN BUSINESS WE CAN'T INTERFERE
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
OH WAIT THERE IS ONE THING—
—THIS LICENSE IS INVALID ON BABYLON 5
WHAT—?
YOU FORGOT TO FILE AN ASSASSINATION PERMIT WITH MY OFFICE
I DON'T NEED A PERMIT.
I HAVEN'T COME THIS FAR TO FAIL.


A LASER
A BLAST

AAAUUUGGHH!!
STALKER!!
YES, SIR!
SPLOOSH!
IT'S A DIRTY JOB, BUT SOMEBODY HAS TO DO IT.
YOU HIRED HIM!
YOU LIED!
I NEGOTIATED
SAME THING

YOU SEE, I COULD HAVE IMPREGNATED HIS CLAN-WIFE
BUT THAT WOULD HAVE RESULTED IN A CHILD BELONGING TO BOTH FAMILIES...
...AND THAT WOULD HAVE SHIFTED THE BALANCE OF POWER AMONG THE FIVE CLANS...
WE CAN'T REALLY PRESS CHARGES AGAINST THE AMBASSADOR. HE HAS DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY
I KNOW. BUT WE CAN KEEP HIM BUSY WITH LAWYERS FOR A WHILE. THAT'LL BE PUNISHMENT ENOUGH
SIR—?
MIRROR REFLECTS LASER STARWEB COVERS MIRROR LASER CUTS STARWEB...
BUT THE CAPTAIN STILL GETS THE LAST WORD
END.

# B A B C O M

"It was the dawn of the third age of mankind...ten years after the Earth-Minbari war. The Babylon Project was a dream given form. Its goal: to prevent another war, by creating a place where humans and aliens could work out their differences peacefully. It's a port of call, home away from home, for diplomats, hustlers, entrepreneurs, and wanderers. Humans and aliens, wrapped in two million, five hundred thousand tons of spinning metal...all alone in the night. It can be a dangerous place, but it's our last, best hope for peace. This is the story of the last of the Babylon stations. The year is 2259. The name of the place is...**BABYLON 5.**"

Dear BABYLON 5:

Are we going to see Walter Koenig's character in the comics? I hope so. Just to get him out of the STAR TREK role.

So far, your "Shadows Past and Present" miniseries [issues #5-8] is the best you have done. I hope you have another miniseries as good as this.

MIKE W. MANN
319 LOCUST ST.
COLUMBIA, PA 17512

No doubt we will. DeHaas and Ridgway, the team that produced your favorite issues, will return next month for a one-shot, and if all goes well, we'll have J. Michael Straczynski here to write a few issues after that. And you can't get much better than that!

As for Mr. Baxter/Walter Koenig, yes, we expect him to show up in these pages now and then. After all, he's an important Psi Corps character — and you know how dangerous it is to ignore Psi Corps...

Dear Guys:

Just got through the end of "Shadows Past and Present" [issue #8, "Silent Enemies"]. Nice story. Liked the art. But it sure brings up a LOT of questions!

Like...what does this mean for Talia Winters? Not long ago, we discovered she was helping rogue telepaths via an underground railroad — then, suddenly, this juicy bit of her history pops up?! And what about Garibaldi? Seems he knows more than he's admitting. And Sheridan, too??? I'm confused! And VERY CURIOUS!

When do we find out more?

LYN WILLIAMS
GUILFORD, CT

Sorry to be so infuriating, but questions are our game. Answers... aren't. At least, not all of them. Not yet.

Good day:

BABYLON 5 is an excellent television series, and the comic has been equally interesting.

I find it particularly remarkable that the comic is being kept part of the official continuity of the series. This avoids the "we-can't-change-anything" syndrome that is common with television tie-ins; it usually causes a feeling of futility, as every story has to reset the universe back to Square One to avoid stepping on the TV show's toes. Here, the comic can reveal facts that later have televised repercussions. I hope you don't terminate such an interesting experiment before its first birthday.

I'm also eagerly awaiting the David Gerrold/Rebecca Guay storyline that starts in #9 ["Duet for Human and Narn in C Sharp"]; I loved Guay's artwork in BLACK ORCHID, and Gerrold is a thorough professional who will undoubtedly produce a fine story. Here's hoping J. Michael Straczynski gets to write a story arc!

I hope the title sticks around; 30 to 40 issues should be just about enough...

ANDREW M. KUCHLING
2096 CLAREMONT, APT. 25
MONTRÉAL, QUÉBEC
H3Z 2P8

Sounds like a decent plan... although 40 issues wouldn't even take us into the fifth year of the TV show. And that would be a shame, since it means the comic book series would end before we got to J. Michael Straczynski's grand finale! Let's hope the comic book series adds a lot more to the scheme before it's done.

And now that David and Rebecca's little story duet is finished up, any comments? Hope you enjoyed the ride — let us know.

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Dear Laura:

When DC announced its BABYLON 5 title, I was probably more enthusiastic and more apprehensive than the average comic-book reader, knowing what you'd have to deal with to produce it. Licensed books have special problems, and I think readers have higher expectations for them than they do for any other kind of comic book. The first eight issues of the title have met some of these expectations some of the time.

I was grateful, most of all, that the first storyline continued Sinclair's part of the saga. "Irritated" doesn't begin to describe how I felt about the character's disappearance from the television series, and judging from the letters you've run, other readers also miss the commander and are looking to this book to cover what the show will not.

Now some general criticism. I can't comment fairly on plot points as I haven't reread these issues lately, but obviously it was good to have some resolution of events left hanging at the end of the first season. The artwork, coloring, and lettering for the first four issues was on the muddy side, and the weakest and most static cover was perhaps the first one — unfortunate when you're trying to build an audience. Carlos Garzon's likenesses in #3 were frequently successful, even frighteningly accurate. The opening pages of issue #5 (John Ridgway's artwork) were possibly the best-looking yet — the cinematic layout, sharper inking, and good likenesses on figures with weight all reminded me of the work of the great Curt Swan. (My favorite page so far: the last page of #1, by Netzer and Leigh, which should be a poster.) For adaptations of this kind, a realistic style employed by artists who know anatomy is crucial. A look at any STAR TREK letter column suggests that readers are chiefly concerned that their favorite characters look like the actors who portray them, and that their dialogue is consistent with what they have heard on the show. Tim DeHaas is especially good with dialogue; hearing the words spoken by the principal players was satisfyingly easy.

Although I enjoy comparing notes with other readers (especially with respect to Commander Sinclair), I would welcome more behind-the-scenes features. I don't see nearly enough coverage of Babylon 5 in other publications to suit me. Possible topics: What are the stages of a script's development? At what point does the prop master get involved, and what are his resources? How does the casting director make his decisions? (And was Richard Chaves, briefly seen in a first-season episode, ever considered for the role of Sinclair?) What scenes or scripts have been modified because of the actors' input? Has the sound engineer encountered any unusual problems? How does Christopher Franke score or track an episode? I'm particularly interested in the functions generally ignored by other magazines. Could you create a page of TV Guide-style mini-interviews with series regulars and guest stars?

I sincerely hope this title continues. There aren't enough science-fiction comic books today, and in spite of a reported overall dropoff in comic-book sales, this is the best time to develop this portion of the market. A good BABYLON 5 comic book can only help such an effort.

ARLENE LO

Thanks, Arlene, for the suggestions... and for revealing your secret identity! Yes, it's true. Arlene Lo is actually the (not so) mild-mannered secret identity of our own "Proofreader of Heroes" here at DC Comics. By day, she's able to read large numbers of comics in a single sitting, catching tiny errors with only a glance. But by night, her real identity emerges... when she chooses and reads only the comics she likes best.

Given that kind of background, it feels like a huge compliment that Arlene has become so interested in BABYLON 5 comics. In fact, BABYLON 5 has a quite a large, devoted following here in the home office, but the praise is especially gratifying coming from someone who we know reads a LOT of comics.

Now for some specifics. Your suggestions for Behind-the-Scenes features were terrific — we'll see if we can get a few topics under way. It was interesting to hear your art preferences, although previous letters have made it clear public opinion is all over the place on that issue. And how curious that you mention your interest in Sinclair, 'cause there's a good chance we'll find out more about him in the future. (And, no, we didn't clue Arlene in on that one before she wrote her letter!)

NEXT UP: **THE PSI CORPS AND *YOU!***

Earth's most secret agency is explained, examined, and demystified for the average Babylon 5 resident. Writer Tim DeHaas and artist John Ridgway return for this special one-shot presentation by... Psi Corps!

COVER ART: REBECCA GUAY AND RICK BRYANT.